

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
HOUSTON DIVISION**

In re	§	
FREE SPEECH SYSTEMS LLC,	§	Chapter 11 (Subchapter V)
	§	
	§	Case No. 22-60043 (CML)
	§	
Debtor.	§	
	§	

**DECLARATION OF HAROLD “HAP” MAY PROPOSED TAX ADVISOR  
AND DISCLOSURE OF COMPENSATION**

THE STATE OF TEXAS           §  
  §  
COUNTY OF HARRIS           §

I, Harold “Hap” May, hereby submit the following statement of disinterestedness pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2014 and further declare, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, that the following is true and correct, under penalty of perjury:

1. My name is Harold “Hap” May. I am over the age of eighteen (18) years. am competent to make this Declaration. I am a Certified Public Accountant. I am also an Attorney, Board Certified in Tax Law. Additionally, I have an LL.M. in Tax Law.
2. I am a principal of Evident Tax, LLC (“**Evident**”). I have worked with the intersection of reorganization and tax for over thirty (30) years. I currently maintain offices at 1500 S. Dairy Ashford, Suite 325, Houston, Texas 77077. I am duly authorized to make and submit this declaration (“Declaration”) in accordance with 11 USC § 327 (a) of the Bankruptcy Code and in conjunction with Rule 2014(a) of Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure. Neither I, nor Evident, represent any interest adverse to the Debtors, the above-captioned debtors, as required by 11 U.S.C. §§ 327(a). Additionally, Evident and I are disinterested persons, as defined by 11 U.S.C. § 101(14).
3. Evident and I have identified the following connections with other parties in interest:
  - a. I was a former employee of Hoover Slovacek, LLP (“**HSLLP**”). My employment ended nine (9) years ago, in August 2014. While at HSLLP, I worked with Melissa Haselden on various bankruptcy matters. After I left,

Melissa Haselden and I maintained a working relationship through a few bankruptcy cases needing the services of a tax professional.

- b. I have worked with Chief Restructuring Officer Patrick Magill on South Coast Supply's bankruptcy case during June 2018. In that case, Patrick Magill was the Chief Restructuring Officer. South Coast Supply sold substantially all of its assets to Solstice Capital, LLC, of which I own a fifteen percent (15%) interest in. After the sale, Solstice Capital, LLC entered into an agreement with Patrick Magill for consulting services lasting approximately 12 months.
  - c. I represent Patrick Magill in Mr. Magill's capacity as Liquidating Trustee in The Tifaro Group Ltd. case.<sup>1</sup> This case and my representation in this case are ongoing.
  - d. I represented Patrick Magill in a case styled DMM Group, Inc v. J. Patrick Magill et al.<sup>2</sup> This case was resolved in the summer of 2021 and the representation then ended.
4. Evident has performed the following actions to determine whether it or any of its employees has any disclosable connections, to the Debtor, creditors, any other party in interest, their respective attorneys and accountants, the U.S. Trustee, any person employed in the office of the U.S. Trustee, or any of the judges for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas.
5. I conducted a search of Evident's files to determine using the list of parties in interest listed in Schedule 1 hereto whether Evident had any connections to or represented any of the parties listed on Schedule 1. Except as disclosed above, the search revealed that Evident did not represent any of the parties listed on Schedule 1. Evident may have provided services to creditors or other parties in interest inadvertently omitted from Schedule 1 or the description above. If such connections exist, they would be on matters wholly unrelated to the service for which the Debtor seeks to engage Evident.
6. The results of the foregoing connections search process confirm that neither I, Evident nor any of its employees or partners, to the best of my knowledge, have any disqualifying connections.

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<sup>1</sup> Case No. 17-80171-11 US Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas Galveston Division

<sup>2</sup> Cause No. 2008-63200 in the District Court of Harris County Texas 281 Judicial District

7. Based on the connections review conducted to date and described herein, to the best of my knowledge and insofar as I can ascertain, I and Evident do not hold an interest adverse to the Debtor or the estate with respect to the matter on which the Firm is to be employed.
8. I am not a creditor, an equity security holder, or an insider of the Debtor; I am not and was not within 2 years before the Petition Date a director of the Debtor; and I do not have any interest materially adverse to the interests of the Debtor's bankruptcy estate or any class of creditors or equity security holders.
9. Evident is not a creditor, an equity security holder, or an insider of the Debtor; Evident is not and was not within 2 years before the Petition Date an employee, officer, or director of the Debtor; and Evident does not have any interest materially adverse to the interests of the Debtor's bankruptcy estate or any class of creditors or equity security holders.
10. Evident does not possess or assert any economic interest that would tend to lessen the value of the bankruptcy estate. Evident also does not possess or assert any economic interest that would create either an actual or potential dispute in which the estate is a rival claimant. Evident does not have any incentive to act contrary to the best interests of the estate and its creditors.
11. In this bankruptcy case, the Debtor seeks to legally minimize their large tax burden while paying back the creditors. Evident and I are experienced in working with the diverse sections of the Internal Revenue Code ("IRC") and assisting companies minimize their tax burdens. The services rendered or to be rendered by Evident and myself are:
  - a. Provide information to debtor's council for tax issues concerning the entity and the plan of reorganization.
  - b. Devise and recommend tax related provisions of a plan that will minimize the burden to the entity while complying Federal and State Tax law;
  - c. Be prepared to testify, if necessary, to provide the court with sufficient evidence in the form of expert testimony;
  - d. Assist in the implementation of the plan and;
  - e. Assist in Federal and State Tax law compliance and reporting requirements.
  - f. Determine for federal income tax purposes:



1. If payments to judgment creditors of either actual damages or punitive damages are deductible
  2. When under the "all events test" in IRC §461 any deduction would be allowed
  3. If IRC §108 excludes income the Debtor may have from the discharge of indebtedness and if so, what is the effect on the Debtor's tax attributes and future income and deductions
  4. If the status of being a disregarded entity is in the best interest of the creditors and other interested parties
  5. If the Debtor can and should elect to be taxed as a corporation
  6. If the Debtor can and should invoke the provisions of 11 USC § 505 (b)(2) to enable the Debtor to obtain an accelerated determination by the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS")
  7. If the Debtor should obtain a private letter ruling ("PLR") from the IRS under Revenue Procedure 2023-1
  8. If applicable prepare and file a PLR with the IRS
  9. Prepare a memorandum and if necessary, a brief in support of the tax positions taken regarding the plan and any tax filings
  10. Draft and review provisions of the plan and all related disclosures relevant to any tax consequence
  11. Assess the risk of adverse rulings from the IRS or other taxing authorities and determine appropriate reserves and alternate strategies in the event of an adverse tax ruling
  12. Weigh the pros and cons of litigation any disputed tax ruling and assist in the drafting of any pleadings in the event of any such litigation
  13. Develop an understanding how the taxation of the Debtor has and will affect the tax consequences of related parties
  14. Review previously filed tax returns for the Debtor and related parties and determine if any returns should be amended
  15. Assist in the preparation of Debtor tax returns or if Debtor remains a DRE, then assist in the preparation of schedules and accountant's workpapers relating to the information delivered to the single member of the Debtor
  16. Review corporate or LLC governance documents and contractual documents affecting the Debtor to determine their effect on tax matters and procedures relating to tax matters
  17. Review statutory, regulatory and case law applicable to the tax matters relevant to the Debtor.
12. Evident and I require one retainer of \$50,000 to assist the Debtors.

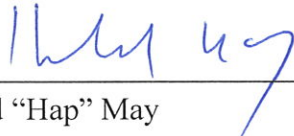
13. In connection with these services, Debtors will be required to pay Evident and I on an hourly fee basis. Hourly fees will be charged as follows:

Professional	Hourly Rate
Harold "Hap" May	\$600.00
Associate Attorneys	\$250.00
Senior Accountants	\$350.00
Accountants	\$250.00
Support Staff	\$150.00 to \$50.00

14. In addition, Evident and I will charge out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with its engagement. The expenses will be charged as set forth below.

Client Expenses	Hourly Rate
Deliveries & Couriers	At Cost
Travel, Lodging and Meals*	At Cost (No Charge for Travel)
Filing Fees & Misc. Expenses	At Cost

15. Evident and I have been advised that, except as provided by other order of this Court, its compensation may be paid only after making an appropriate application to this Court.
16. The undersigned further states that he has not shared, or agreed to share with any person, other than with members of the undersigned's firm, any compensation, except as herein set forth.

  
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 Harold "Hap" May

**SCHEDULE 1**

**TO MAY DECLARATION**

**SEARCHED PARTIES**

**Debtor & Professionals**

Law Office of Ray Battaglia

J. Patrick Magill

**Debtor's Equity**

Alexander E. Jones

**Largest 20 Unsecured Creditors & Litigation Claimants**

Elevated Solutions Group

Atomial LLC

Cloudfare, Inc.

Jacquelyn Blott

Joel Skousen

eCommerce CDN LLC

Paul Watson

Greenair, Inc.

Edgecast, Inc.

Ready Alliance Group, Inc.

Getty Images, Inc.

RatsMedical.com

David Icke Books Limited

WWCR

CustomTattoNow.com

AT&T

Justin Lair

Brennan Gilmore

Carlee Soto-Parisi

Carlos Soto

Christopher Sadowski

Joey Delassio

Anthony Gucciardi

Carol Jones

Dona Soto

Erica Lafferty

Francine Wheeler

Ian Hockley

Jacqueline Barden

Jennifer Hensel

Jeremy Richman

Jillian Soto

Leonard Pozner

Marcel Fontaine

Mark Barden

Neil Heslin

Nicole Hockley

PQPR Holdings Limited, LLC

Robert Parker

Scarlett Lewis

Veronique De La Rosa

William Sherlach

William Aledenberg

Larry Klayman

Randazza Legal Group

Aurium

David Jones

**Attorneys for Creditors and Parties in Interest**

Kaster Lynch Farrar & Ball LLP

Koskoff Koskoff & Bieder

Fertitta & Reynal LLP

Zeisler & Zeisler P.C.

Jordan & Ortiz, P.C.

McDowell Heterhington LLP

The Akers Law Firm PLLC  
Copycat Legal PLLC  
Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis,  
LLP  
Jackson Walker LLP  
Cain & Skarnulis PLLC  
Hawash Cicack & Gaston LLP  
Streusand, Landon, Ozburn &  
Lemmon, LLP

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld  
LLP  
Paul Weiss Rifkin & Garrison, LLP  
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP  
Law Office of Liz Freeman  
Chamberlain Hrdlicka  
Melissa Haselden  
Stephen A Roberts, P.C.

U.S. Bankruptcy Judges and Staff

Chief Judge David R. Jones  
Judge Marvin Isgur  
Judge Christopher M. Lopez  
Judge Jeffrey P. Norman  
Judge Eduardo V. Rodriguez  
Albert Alonzo  
Ana Castro

Tracey Conrad  
Jeannie Chavez  
LinhThu Do  
Tyler Laws  
Kimberly Picota  
Vriana Portillo  
Mario Rios

U.S. Trustee Personnel

Alicia Barcomb  
Jacqueline Boykin  
Luci Johnson-Davis  
Hector Duran  
Barbra Griffin  
Brian Henault  
Linda Motton  
Ha Nguyen  
Glenn Otto  
Yasmin Rivera

Jayson B. Ruff  
Millie Sall  
Patricia Schmidt  
Christy Simmons  
Gwen Smith  
Stephen Statham  
Christopher R. Travis  
Clarissa Waxton  
Jana Whitworth